

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH LEVELS

Bloomington Public Schools Middle School Gifted & Talented program

Advanced math students will have opportunities to participate in advanced levels of mathematics. These courses demand the highest level of participation, effort and quality from students. This document contains suggested criteria for participation in Bloomington's Middle School Honors program.

IMPORTANT: Students who successfully meet honors academic expectations may remain in the honors program for the entire school year. Students who are not meeting honors academic expectations may be exited from this program. MAP scores no longer determine continued Honors placement from year to year in middle school. Honors classes require a high level of effort and achievement.

Note: Honors placement in the middle school does not automatically guarantee Honors placement at high school. Honors placement in 9th grade may be determined by a student's MAP tests, MCA scores, EXPLORE test scores, and middle school Grade Point Average (GPA).

MATH LEVELS

The Bloomington Math Program consists of math courses taught *at grade level, advanced by one year, advanced by one year at the Honors level, and advanced by two years*. Math courses advanced by one or two years above grade level provide highly motivated and mathematically gifted and talented students with a math curriculum designed to meet their needs. These math courses offer greater depth, complexity and pacing than a regular math course. Students who participate in higher math levels must utilize highly developed *organizational skills, advanced level thinking skills, and sophisticated cognitive learning strategies*.

Important: High School G.P.A. could start in middle school!

Students taking *above grade level* math courses may complete Intermediate Algebra, Honors Intermediate Algebra, and/or Honors Geometry by 8th grade. Both of these courses are official high school courses, and students taking them will receive high school grade and credit. Therefore, the official high school Grade Point Average (GPA) begins with grades earned in these courses.

MATH PLACEMENT (*advanced by one year*)

Placement of students into a math course advanced by one year is made using two criteria:

1. A math score of 85% or better on the district's MAP test, and
2. Past math performance places the student in the top range of his/her class; s/he is highly motivated to succeed.

MATH PLACEMENT (*advanced by one year, Honors level*)

Placement of students into a math course advanced by one year at the Honors level is made using two criteria:

1. A math score of 95% or better on the district's MAP test, and
2. Past math performance consistently places the student in the extreme top range of his/her class; s/he is highly motivated and driven to succeed.

Typical characteristics of math students advanced by one year generally include:

- Mastery of basic skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication, & division) using whole numbers
- Ability to problem solve in different ways
- Ability to work with mathematical concepts in fluent, flexible, and creative ways
- Energy and persistence in solving difficult problems

MATH PLACEMENT (*advanced by two years, Honors level*)

Placement of students into a math course advanced by two years at the Honors level is made using two criteria:

1. A history of math scores of 99% on the district's MAP test, and
2. Past math performance consistently places the student in the extreme top range of his/her class; s/he is highly motivated and driven to succeed.

Typical characteristics of these math students generally include all of the characteristics of those advanced by one year, as well as the following:

- Ability to perceive, visualize, and generalize patterns and relationships
- Ability to reason analytically, deductively, and inductively
- Formulates mathematical questions, doesn't just answer them
- Ability to organize and work with data in a variety of ways and to disregard irrelevant data

MATH COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to:

- Maintain a minimum of a "B-" average (including tests, quizzes, class work and homework),
- Complete all assignments and homework when assigned,
- Fully participate in class discussions and group work, and
- Satisfy any other expectations assigned by the teacher.

IMPORTANT: If a student is not meeting academic expectations, s/he will be rescheduled into another math class, per the discretion of the school's principal.

Bloomington Math Program

GRADE	COURSE TITLE <i>regular math</i>	COURSE TITLE <i>advanced by 1 year</i> <i>85%-94%</i>	COURSE TITLE <i>advanced by 1 year</i> <i>95% & above</i>	COURSE TITLE <i>advanced by 2 years</i> <i>History of 99%</i>
6th Grade	Math 6	Math 7	Honors Math 7	Hnrs. Algebra 8
7th Grade	Math 7	Algebra 8	Honors Algebra 8	Hnrs. Int. Algebra +HS GRADE +HS CREDIT
8th Grade	Algebra 8	Intermediate Algebra +HS GRADE +HS CREDIT	Honors Int. Algebra +HS GRADE +HS CREDIT	Hnrs. Geometry +HS GRADE +HS CREDIT

+ Students receive high school grade and credit for this course, which will impact the students' future High School Grade Point Average (GPA).